

Bulletin  
Dentist and Dental Hygienist Licensing Laws  
Effective October 1, 2012

As a result of legislation enacted during the 2012 Maryland legislative session, a number of changes were made to the licensing laws affecting dentists and dental hygienists. The following is a brief overview of the criteria that must presently be met by dentists and dental hygienists who seek a general license in Maryland by either examination or by meeting the appropriate experience requirements by virtue of licensure in another state. For more details please read the applicable licensing sections of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Title 4, Subtitle 3, and the Code of Maryland Regulations, (COMAR) 10.44.05, 10.44.09, and 10.44.15.

**Dentists - Licensure by Examination**

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

**Dentists – Licensure for Dentists Licensed in Another State**

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Licensing Examination (ADLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and

- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

**OR**

- Hold an active dental license in another state; and
- Pass an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; and
- Have been actively practicing dentistry in another state for at least 5 years and during the 5 year period preceding the application, have been actively practicing dentistry for at least 850 hours on average per year for a total of at least 4,250 hours; and
- Pass a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and
- Pass the Maryland dental jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association; and
- Provide adequate evidence that you are not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, do not have charges pending against your license in another state, and have not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or have been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act which would be grounds for disciplinary action under Maryland's dental laws.

**Dental Hygienists - Licensure by Examination**

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and

- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

### **Dental Hygienists – Licensure for Dental Hygienists Licensed in Another State**

- The applicant shall be of good moral character; and
- Pass the written and clinical American Dental Hygiene Licensing Examination (ADHLEX) administered by the American Board of Dental Examiners (ADEX) with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association.

### **OR**

- Hold an active dental hygiene license in another state; and
- Pass an examination with a clinical component as a requirement for licensure in another state; and
- Have been actively practicing dental hygiene in another state for at least 3 years and during the 3 year period preceding the application, have been actively practicing dental hygiene for at least 150 hours on average per year for a total of at least 450 hours; and
- Pass a comprehensive written examination on applied clinical diagnosis and treatment planning administered by ADEX; and
- Pass the Maryland dental hygiene jurisprudence examination given by the Dental Board with a score of 75 or greater in each required section; and
- Pass the national boards examinations, also known as the National Boards, administered by the Council of National Boards of the American Dental Association; and

- Provide adequate evidence that you are not being investigated by a disciplinary authority of another state, do not have charges pending against your license in another state, and have not been disciplined by a disciplinary or licensing authority of any other state or country, or have been convicted or disciplined by a court of any state or country for an act which would be grounds for disciplinary action under Maryland's dental laws.

(November 28, 2012)